

**ABSOLUTE RATING:** Good  
**IMPROVEMENT RATING:** Below Average

Number of high schools with students similar to ours: 30. The absolute ratings for those schools ranged from average to excellent. For the improvement ratings, the range was from unsatisfactory to excellent.  
*(Definitions of School Rating Terms on Page 4)*

#### RATINGS OVER A 4-YEAR PERIOD

	Absolute Rating	Improvement Rating
<b>2001</b>	Good	Below Average
<b>2002</b>		
<b>2003</b>		
<b>2004</b>		

#### TENTH GRADE PASSAGE OF ONE OR MORE SUBTESTS OF THE EXIT EXAM

	Our School			Schools With Students Like Ours		
	1999	2000	2001	1999	2000	2001
• Passed all 3 subtests	65.0	74.4	74.6	71.2	75.1	75.4
• Passed 2 subtests	19.3	16.8	16.9	16.1	14.2	14.2
• Passed 1 subtest	9.1	5.0	5.6	8.1	7.4	7.0
• Passed no subtests	6.6	3.8	2.8	4.6	3.2	3.4

<b>ELIGIBILITY FOR LIFE SCHOLARSHIPS</b>	Our School	Schools With Students Like Ours
% of seniors eligible for LIFE Scholarships at four-year institutions	24.8%	27.9%
% of seniors who met the SAT requirement	26.6%	29.4%
% of seniors who met the grade point average	51.4%	55.6%

Beginning in 2003, the graduation rate for each high school will be included in the school rating.

#### PERFORMANCE BY STUDENT GROUPS

Student Group	Seniors		
	Exit Exam Passage Rate by Spring 2001	Eligibility for LIFE Scholarships	Graduation Rate
<b>All students</b>	89.7%	24.8%	N/A until 2003
Students with disabilities other than speech	67.7%	0.0%	
Students without disabilities	92.0%	26.7%	
<b>Gender</b>			
Male	86.1%	16.4%	
Female	92.4%	30.7%	
<b>Ethnic Group</b>			
African American	81.5%	5.8%	
Hispanic	75.0%	40.0%	
White	92.5%	32.0%	
Other	90.9%	23.1%	
<b>Lunch Status</b>			
Free/reduced-price lunch	83.0%	3.6%	
Pay for lunch	90.4%	26.8%	

#### STUDENTS IN CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY COURSES

Mastering core competencies	79.5%
Completers placed	100.0%
Eligible students enrolled	43.1%

## SCHOOL PROFILE

### INDICATORS OF SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

	Our School	Change from Last Year	Schools with Students Like Ours	Median High School
<b>SCHOOL</b>				
• Dollars spent per student	\$4,972	N/A	\$5,126	\$5,668
• Prime instructional time	91.1%	Up from 90.3%	91.1%	90.1%
• Student-teacher ratio	25.8 to 1	N/A	26.6 to 1	25.1 to 1
<b>STUDENTS (n=1,847)</b>				
• Advanced Placement/ Int'l Baccalaureate Program Exam Success Ratio	32.7%	N/A	57.4%	40.0%
• Attendance rate	96.2%	Down from 96.4%	95.7%	95.3%
• Retention rate	7.3%	Down from 8.4%	7.5%	10.0%
<b>TEACHERS (n=113)</b>				
• Professional Development days per teacher	6.2 Days	Down from 7.5	7.4 Days	7.5 Days
• Attendance rate	95.8%	Up from 95.3%	96.2%	95.7%
• Teachers with advanced degrees	54.0%	Down from 58.1%	55.3%	49.4%
• Continuing contract teachers	72.6%	Up from 68.8%	82.2%	81.0%
• Teachers with out-of-field permits	4.4%	Up from 0.0%	2.5%	3.0%
• Teachers returning from the previous school year	86.7%	Down from 87.6%	86.6%	85.2%
• Average teacher salary	\$36,810	Up 0.2%	\$38,311	\$38,125

#### SCHOOL FACTS

	Our School	Change From Last Year	Schools with Students like ours	Median High School
<b>SCHOOL</b>				
• Dropout rate	3.7%	Up from 2.8%	2.7%	2.9%
• Percentage of expenditures spent on teacher salaries	56.6%	N/A	57.4%	56.4%
• Principal's years at the school	1.5	N/A	3.0	3.0
• Percent of parents attending conferences	79.2%	N/A	59.5%	60.1%
• Opportunities in the arts	Excellent	N/A	Excellent	Excellent
<b>STUDENTS</b>				
• Older than usual for grade	8.7%	Down from 10.6%	6.5%	10.1%
• Suspended or expelled	72	N/A	26	29
• Gifted and talented	0.0%	N/A	10.7%	7.4%
• With disabilities other than speech	9.8%	Up from 9.5%	9.0%	10.7%
• Career/technology students in co-curricular organizations	5.3%	N/A	2.9%	4.5%
• Enrollment in career and technology center courses	796	N/A	408	350
• Career students participating in work-based experiences	57.6%	N/A	26.7%	23.1%



## PRINCIPAL'S / SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL REPORT

Fort Dorchester is a suburban, comprehensive high school with 1940 students and a faculty and staff of 173. A strong academic tradition has been established since the opening of the school in August of 1992. The focus of our community on academic excellence has guided the faculty of Fort Dorchester High School to become an International Baccalaureate School in order to provide our students with the rigorous and challenging curriculum they need to be leaders in tomorrow's world.

Students from Fort Dorchester perform at high levels of competency in Academics, Fine Arts, Athletics, and Volunteerism. Many have been recognized at local, state and national levels to include the Level III Quest team placing first and the Destination Imagination team placing first in state and regional competition. The student president of the School Improvement Council was chosen the State PTA Student Volunteer of the Year and a community volunteer was chosen the State Volunteer of the Year. The Patriot Singers won first place and Grand Champion at the Atlanta Music Festival, and our Varsity Football team won the Region AAAA championship. These are a few of our many accomplishments during the 2000-2001 school year.

Fort Dorchester has successfully addressed issues affecting schools all over the nation (i.e.: low teacher morale, school safety and student behavior). This was done through the open and free involvement of students, teachers, parents, and the school administration in the identification of the specific issues of concern, the development of strategies needed to deal with these concerns, and in the continuous monitoring of the results. This monitoring reveals much improved teacher morale, a comprehensive school safety program (including picture ID's and 48 surveillance cameras), and overall improvement in student discipline.

The future at Fort Dorchester High School promises to be full of challenge. Our response to this challenge will determine the level of prominence to which our school rises. Together, the "Patriot Family" will continue to meet each circumstance with a positive attitude, and the students and faculty of Fort Dorchester will always have "Patriot Pride."

Timothy C. Payne

### EVALUATIONS BY TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

Percent	Teachers	Students	Parents
Satisfied with learning environment	91.9	68.8	(Avail. 2002)
Satisfied with social and physical environment	95.5	74.9	
Satisfied with home-school relations	70.4	78.6	

### DEFINITIONS OF SCHOOL RATING TERMS

**Excellent** – School performance substantially exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

**Good** – School performance exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

**Average** – School performance meets the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

**Below Average** – School is in jeopardy of not meeting the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

**Unsatisfactory** – School performance fails to meet the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

Fort Dorchester High  
8500 Patriot Boulevard  
North Charleston, SC 29420

**Grades** 9-12 High School

**Enrollment:** 1,847 Students

### Principal

Timothy C. Payne 843-760-4450

### Superintendent

Joseph R. Pye 843-873-2901

### Board Chair

Bufort Blanton, Jr. 843-873-8454

## THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Annual School  
Report Card

**2001**

School Grade:  
Good



### South Carolina Performance Goal:

By 2010, South Carolina's student achievement will be ranked in the top half of the states nationally. To achieve this goal, we must become one of the five fastest improving systems in the country.

For more information, visit our website at  
[www.myschools.com](http://www.myschools.com)